

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Via EFS
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants agree with the Examiner that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the combination of claimed elements. Applicants note that there is a discrepancy in the Statement as to the status of certain claims. Specifically, the Examiner remarks in one instance that Claims 37–57 have been canceled, while in other instances, the Examiner lists only Claims 37–54 as canceled. Since only Claims 37–54 had been withdrawn, it is Applicants' understanding that the first remark is a typographical error, and that Claims 55–57 are in fact allowed.

Respectfully submitted,
HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Date: June 29, 2009

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